

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

77-5595

August 25, 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Reorganization Study of Federal Preparedness and Response to Disasters

I have directed my Reorganization Project staff at the Office of Management and Budget to carry out a comprehensive study of the Federal Government's role in preparing for and responding to natural, accidental, and wartime civil disasters.

Three different departments have major responsibility for disaster and civil defense preparedness. Many other Federal organizations have some disaster planning, relief, or recovery responsibilities. In national emergencies the resources of the entire Federal Government are on call, but they must be deployed effectively. After local disasters Federal agencies should be effectively coordinated to be able to assist State and local authorities without delay.

A preliminary review indicates that there are opportunities for the Executive Branch to improve its performance in planning for and helping to cope with the effects of major disaster. But this is a shared responsibility. The cooperation of State and local government, Congress, private sector organizations, and individual citizens is essential. Successful completion of this important reorganization study will require their participation as well as the full cooperation of Federal departments and agencies. If you are asked to contribute staff support or other assistance to this effort, I encourage you to do so.

In order to inform all affected parties that the review is underway, I have directed that this memorandum be published in the Federal Register.

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Jimmy Carter

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE

D/MB

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